



Legal Notice

Bankhead National Forest

1070 Highway 33 • Double Springs, Alabama 35553 • 205-489-5111

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r8/alabama



Contact: Elrand D. Denson
205-489-5111

Bankhead Ranger District Prescribed Burning Projects Proposals

The USDA Forest Service proposes to conduct prescribed burning on approximately 9,888 acres within the Bankhead National Forest. The purpose of this proposed project is to restore and maintain native woodland communities and lower the risk of catastrophic wildfires by reducing natural fuel build-up. This project will also facilitate the growth of native forbs and grasses thereby improving wildlife habitat for many species including deer, turkey, and some migratory/resident birds. These 7 areas are located across the Bankhead Ranger District and are proposed for implementation during the dormant or growing season of fiscal years 2011 through 2015. A map showing the general location of these areas is available. Fire lines will be constructed as part of this project. Fire lines will be treated for erosion control by construction of water bars, and vegetation establishment as deemed necessary by project managers. On small blocks of private land (in-holdings) that fall within burn areas, cooperative agreements between private landowners and the Forest Service may be used to reduce the length and amount of constructed fire lines.

We anticipate that this project will be categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS. This because it fits categories 31.2- (6) and 31.2 (13) of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15-2004-3, dated July 6, 2004, *Section 31.2 (6) – “Timber stand improvements which do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction...”* to include prescribed burning.

Comments should be sent to Elrand Denson, District Ranger, Bankhead National Forest, Bankhead Ranger District, P.O. Box 278, Double Springs, AL 35553, telephone (205) 489-5111 or fax (205) 489-3427. Oral or hand-delivered comments must be received within our normal business hours of 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Comments may be mailed electronically in a common digital format to our office at comments-southern-alabama-bankhead@fs.fed.us. Comments should be received by June 18, 2010.